

was incorporated on 31st July, 1995. Further, NMDC submitted its application to the Government of Madhya Pradesh for transfer of 11-B mining lease in favour of the JV company.

The Government of Madhya Pradesh recommended the proposal vide their letter dated 06/1/96 and sought prior approval of the Central Government from the Ministry of Mines, as required under the provisions of the MMRD Act, 1957. The State Government also proposed to incorporate certain conditions such as involvement of the State Govt. in the equity of the JV Company to the extent of 20%, setting up of a steel plant by the new Joint Venture Company in Madhya Pradesh preferably in Bastar District, recruitment of manpower from the State especially from District Bastar, establishment of schools/hospital in the area by the JV Company etc. The Ministry of Mines approved the proposal on 21st March, 1996 subject to observance of the provisions of MMPD Act, 1957 and Mineral Concession Rules, 1960 and also that the State Govt., the proposed joint venture company, i.e., Bailadila Mineral Development Company Ltd., and NMDC should arrive at a uniform and agreed set of conditions for the transfer and incorporate them in an agreement or any other appropriate legal instrument.

Ministry of Mines vide their letter dated 13/6/96 requested Government of Madhya Pradesh to inform whether NMDC has consented to the conditions that the State Government proposed to incorporate under Rule 27 (3) of the MCR, 1960. The State Government of Madhya Pradesh has requested Ministry of Steel vide their letter dated 19/6/96 and 3/8/96 to advise NMDC to send their consent to the conditions proposed by the State Government.

Shri Gurudas Dasgupta and Shri Jibon Roy, Hon'ble Members of Parliament had filed a Writ petition before the Hon'ble Calcutta High Court for grant of stay on the decision to transfer the lease of 11-B iron ore mines in favour of the Joint Venture Company. The Writ petition had been dismissed by the Calcutta High Court on grounds of jurisdiction on 10/5/1996. An interim stay of 3 weeks was granted by the High Court which was subsequently ordered by the Court to be suspended till the disposal of appeal preferred by the Joint Venture Company against the interim stay and the appeal preferred by Shri Gurudas Dasgupta and Shri Jibon Roy against the order dismissing the original Writ petition. These appeals are to come up before the regular bench.

A Public Interest Litigation (PIL) has also been filed in the High Court of Delhi in July, 1996 against the transfer of Bailadila Deposit 11-B. The case has been adjourned to 13/1/1997 for final argument.

The subject is very important and needs detailed examination on various aspects. However, since the matter is pending before the Courts, the Government would like to await the judicial verdict.

IA Growth in Domestic Traffic

*412. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the expectations of Indian Airlines for a growth of 15% in domestic traffic in the first six months of current year has fallen through recording zero growth;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the expected growth in the next six months of the year; and

(d) the steps being taken to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In the last six months of the current financial year the growth in passenger carriage projected by Indian Airlines is 14.5% over the same period of the year 1995-96.

(d) The following steps have been taken to achieve the expected growth in traffic :

(i) Increased utilization of fleet through increased production of commanders, induction of commanders on contract in Alliance Air, wholly owned subsidiary of Indian Airlines and increased number of aircraft rostered per day as a result of increased productivity of engineers.

(ii) Attracting passengers by product improvement, innovation/aggressive marketing strategies, improved on-time performance and dissemination of information regarding the strengths of the company.

Task Force for Exploration

*413. SHRI N. DENNIS :

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA :

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently contemplated a new action plan to explore the availability of minerals in the country particularly in the National Capital Territory of Delhi and North-Eastern region;

(b) whether a Task Force has been set up for this purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the achievements made by the Task Force, so far; and

(d) the break-up of expenditure involved in this action plan?